

3629

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Karpenko

Application No.: 09/390,937

Filed: September 7, 1999

Title: SELF-PAYING SMART UTILITY METER  
AND PAYMENT SERVICE

Attorney Docket No.: VISAP022

Examiner: Dixon, Thomas A.

Group: 2161-

Confirmation No.: 7838



## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on November 8, 2002.

Signed:

Morgan E. Malino

AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL

Commissioner for Patents  
Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Washington, DC 20231

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NOV 20 2002  
GROUP 3600

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated as shown below.

	Claims After Amendment		Highest Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity Rate Fee	Large Entity Rate Fee
Total Claims	26	MINUS	28	0	x 9 = 0	x 18 = 0
Independent Claims	6	MINUS	6	0	x 42 = 0	x 84 = 0
Multiple Dependent Claim Present and Fee Not Previously Paid					\$140.00	\$280.00
Total					\$0	\$0

- ☒ Applicant(s) believe that no (additional) Extension of Time is required; however, if it is determined that such an extension is required, Applicant(s) hereby petition that such an extension be granted and authorize the Commissioner to charge the required fees for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 to Deposit Account No. 500388.
- ☐ Enclosed is our Check No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the additional claim fee and/or extension of time fees.
- ☒ Please charge the required fees, or any additional fees required to facilitate filing the enclosed response, to Deposit Account No. 500388 (Order No. VISAP022).

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

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Morgan E. Malino

AMENDMENT A

Commissioner for Patents  
Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Washington, DC 20231

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Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 8, 2002 please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Drawings:

The applicant has corrected the informalities in the formal drawings, as noted by the Official Draftsperson on September 7, 1999. Corrected formal drawings are enclosed.

In the Claims:

Please **cancel** claims 15 and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **replace** the existing claims 17, 18 and 19 with the following **amended** claims 17, 18 and 19.

17. (Once Amended) An apparatus for monitoring the usage of a utility, the apparatus comprising:

an electronic meter reader, wherein the electronic meter reader is arranged to electronically obtain meter counts associated the usage of the utility